

CLEAN COPY OF REPLACEMENT PARAGRAPH

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

X  
--FIG. 6 depicts another embodiment of the invention that provides for grouping and identification of optical fibers within a ribbon or within a fiber sub-unit thereof. Thus, an optical fiber ribbon or sub-unit is shown having four optical fibers 24. The optical fibers are arranged into two pairs of adjacent optical fibers. A colored material 64 is applied to one pair of optical fibers and a colored material 66 is applied to the other pair of optical fibers prior to extruding an outer covering 68 over all of the optical fibers. Application of colored materials 64, 66 can be accomplished by locating feed channels at the fiber entrance side of tool 40, rather than the fiber exit side of the tool as shown in Figure 4. The colored materials 64, 66 can have colors selected to identify each pair of fibers. The colored materials preferably are relatively high-adherence materials compared to the material of outer covering 68, such that the colored materials tend to remain adhered to the optical fibers when the outer covering is stripped away. Preferably, outer covering 68 is sufficiently transparent so that colored materials 64, 66 are visible through the outer covering. Colored materials 64, 66 and outer covering 68 can be extruded in rapid succession, within the same extrusion tool if desired. Alternatively, pairs of optical fibers 24 can be bonded together by applying colored materials 64, 66 to the fiber pairs, and subsequently the bonded fiber pairs can be fed through an extrusion tool for extruding outer covering 68 over the fiber pairs.--